

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!** Did you know the actual color of St. Patrick is blue? Green became associated with St. Patrick's Day during the 19th century. Green, in Irish legends, was worn by fairies and immortals, and also by people to encourage their crops to grow.



# GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MARCH 2014

## 911 EMERGENCY CENTER

### Highland closer to supporting single, countywide system

A holdout to embracing a consolidated emergency dispatch system, Highland may be inching closer to supporting a single, countywide plan.

Following a meeting in late February with county officials, Councilman Bernie Zemen said he would recommend that the Town Council support the plan that would eliminate community dispatchers in favor of the consolidated system.

"We forced the county to dig deep to find answers to questions that are important to local communities, such as Highland," Zemen said. "The truth is; we can only hold out so long. The consolidated 911 system has been mandated by the state."

An outgrowth of 9/11, when first responders were hampered by the inability of various agencies to communicate effectively, Lake County's E-911

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

There are four Lake County communities that have not yet joined the consolidated E-911 network: Highland, Cedar Lake, St. John and Schererville.

The county is under a mandate to create a centralized dispatching system, which will allow all first responders to connect, by the end of the year.

system has been delayed by questions over cost as well as implementation.

The countywide system is supposed to be operational by Jan. 1, 2015. If the system is delayed, Zemen said he has been assured the county will take over all dispatch activities as of that date.

Even so, the town plans on having personnel onsite – 24 hours a day – to guarantee all urgent situations are handled promptly. 🍀



#### ... TOWN TICKER ...

Congratulations to long-time Highland resident **Charlotte Hanrahan**, who has received the Crown of St. Edward award from the Methodist Hospitals Foundation. ... **Prompt Ambulance CEO Gary Miller** is the first-ever recipient of the Gary T. Miller Legacy Medallion awarded for his service to the Methodist Hospitals Foundation ... **Highland transportation shuttle Triple A Express** will continue to handle the overflow from North Township's Dial-A-Ride bus service, which tripled its ridership in one year. ... **Anytime Fitness** is opening a Highland location next to Strack and Van Til on Cine Avenue. The fitness center features top-of-line equipment with monitors, personal trainers and unlimited tanning. Anytime Fitness will waive the membership fee for the first 100 members. Sign up at the mobile trailer onsite or call 773.301.4869. ... **Former Highland resident Dan Kuiper** published his first book titled, "When Father is a Bad Word." For more info or to buy your own copy, visit [www.findingfatherslove.com](http://www.findingfatherslove.com).

#### HIGHLAND REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

### \$30,000 GRANT WILL JUMPSTART DOWNTOWN ARTS DISTRICT

The town's Redevelopment Commission has received \$30,000 in grant funds to plan the next step of an arts district that will be anchored by the Town Theatre.

Eighty percent of the project – \$24,000 – is financed through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission 2040 Plan while the remaining \$6,000 will be paid by the Redevelopment Commission.

"This planning grant will allow us to put the next layer into our master plan for this area, which we consider vital to downtown development," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "We are positioning Highland to



become a haven for artists and are planning areas for studios, galleries and retail."

Over the next year, the Redevelopment Commission will work with SEH of Munster to identify land uses, parcels and exist-

ing buildings within the corridor that could be repurposed to create more jobs, services and amenities for residents and visitors.

At the conclusion, the corridor plan will have design guidelines, 3D renderings, site plans, implementation strategies and a five-year action plan to revitalize the Kennedy Avenue streetscape.

"This is a great next step," Council President Dan Vassar said. "Highland's project embraces NIRPC's 2040 plan to create more livable communities. Creating a theatre district along Kennedy Avenue will continue the transformation of downtown." 🍀

## PARDON OUR POTHOLES

Tire-swallowing potholes are cropping up on local roads and streets with each new batch of icy cold weather that passes through the region.

Most recently, a giant section of pavement failed near Lincoln Center. It won't be the last.

Highland street crews are busy filling the craters between snowstorms with limited success. That is the best case scenario until the weather warms and the asphalt plants reopen.

## INDOOR STREET MARKET

Escape the cold and stop indoors for your favorite breads, cheeses, honey, cupcakes, spices, pet treats and more.

**WHEN:** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. **MARCH 8**

The market continues on the second Saturday of the month through May.

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**INFO:** Visit [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org) or call (219) 838-0114.



### WARD 1

**BERNIE ZEMEN**  
bzemen@comcast.net  
(219) 781-1056



### WARD 2

**MARK HERAK**  
mherak@highland.in.gov  
(219) 838-0126



### WARD 3

**DAN VASSAR** - president  
dvassar@highland.in.gov  
(219) 924-1945



### WARD 4

**DENNIS ADAMS**  
dadams@highland.in.gov  
(219) 923-8475



### WARD 5

**KONNIE KUIPER**  
kkuiper@highland.in.gov  
(219) 924-7820

## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:  
[gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com](mailto:gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com)

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041  
[www.theideafactory.us.com](http://www.theideafactory.us.com)

Printed by CJ Printing  
9445 Indianapolis Blvd. ® 94  
Highland, IN 46322

# NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH ENHANCING OUR SAFETY FOR 8 YEARS

For the last eight years, Cpl. Shawn Anderson and Officer Brandon Norris have been the eyes and ears of Crime Watch, engaging citizens to become part of the town's crime-fighting team as key stakeholders in prevention.

Highland chalked up fewer crimes in several categories in 2013 versus 2012.

A crime analysis shows many thefts, burglaries and fraud cases could have been avoided if residents had taken simple precautions.

"We view the public as our 'Partners In Prevention' and rely on their observations to assist us in our duties," Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "Calls regarding suspicious activity by concerned citizens last year resulted in numerous arrests. We encourage the public to call regarding any activity they deem suspicious and allow us to verify what's going on."

To keep tabs on trends, the police department holds Crime Watch meetings on the second Wednesday of every other month beginning

## CRIME WATCH MEETING

Gang Intelligence Analyst Ken Forsyte will discuss gang activity and recent crime trends at this month's neighborhood meeting.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. **MARCH 12**

**WHERE:** Highland Library

**INFO:** Call Officer Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department at (219) 838-3184.

in January. All meetings are at 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Public Library. Crime statistics are discussed as are crime prevention tips and recent cases. Guest speakers, refreshments and door prizes are also part of each meeting.

"Highland is a unique community with many amenities, including its awesome residents, low crime, great schools, parks, civic- and faith-based organizations, shopping district, as well as its proximity to nearby attractions and transportation hubs," Hojnicky said. "It is a way of life we want to preserve and enhance for future generations." 🐼

## HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT'S TOP CRIME TIPS

- **Report ANY suspicious activity immediately.** You can request that your call is anonymous.
- **Be careful who you associate with.** Many times, friends and relatives are prime suspects in a burglary. Never allow those you do not know/trust into your home.
- **All Highland employees** drive vehicles and wear clothing clearly identifying themselves. You can always call 911 and allow police to verify their authenticity.
- **Get to know your neighbors.** Encourage them to attend a Crime Watch Meeting.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Keep your cell phone handy to report suspicious activity or an emergency. Don't wear earbuds when you're walking or running.
- **Always lock your home and car doors** – even if you are out or doing yard work.
- **Never leave valuables in plain view,** whether in your vehicle or home.
- **Crime prevention is a community effort.** Be watchful of your neighbors and their property, too.
- **Motion detector lights** are inexpensive and let you know outside movement has been detected.
- **Notify police for vacation checks** when you are going out of town.
- **Don't fall for scams.** If an offer sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
- **Never give personal information over the phone.** Most businesses will not request personal information. Be mindful of what you post on social media sites, such as Facebook. Remember, information you share with your friends can be disseminated to people you don't want to know.



# BEST OF HIGHLAND

The first-ever Best-of-Highland awards were such a success last year, the Chamber of Commerce is hosting another event to honor those who excel throughout the community.

A new group of business leaders, educators and lawmakers — who raise the bar and improve the overall quality of life in Highland — are being recognized for their efforts.

“People got really excited about the ‘Best of Highland’ event after they saw what it was all about last year,” said Michelle Anderson, president of the Highland Chamber and assistant vice president and banking center manager at First Financial Bank.

“We have seen that excitement carryover into this year’s event. As a result, we have had even more participation from the community.”

All proud finalists receive a certificate of congratulations. Award winners receive plaques as do all recipients of beautification awards.

The chamber also added a new category to its list.

This year’s Best of Highland Legacy Award is dedicated to Norma Fross for her decades of commitment to the Highland business community as owner of the Kiddie Shop.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR’S PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS!

Cakes By Karen, Dickey’s Barbecue, Dining Solutions, Grindhouse Café, Round the Clock, Texas Corral, Theo’s, Town Club and Traditions.



## CIVIL SERVANT FINALISTS

### CIVIL SERVANT

Bridget DeYoung, Highland Main Street  
Sue Douthett, Highland Historical Society  
Ken Mika, Highland Building Department  
Cindy Rivera, North Township Trustee  
Karen Slager, Highland Public Library

### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Don Haynes, Mike Pipta, John Siple, Bill Timmer

### PARKS DEPARTMENT

Alex Brown, Bobbie Knight, Laura Wanicki

### POLICE DEPARTMENT/VIPS

Lloyd Blissmer, Pete Hojnicki, Keith Thompson Sr.

### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

John Bach, Ronnie Green, Dave Halton

### SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND

Nick Kikalos, HMS Language Arts  
Scott McWilliams, Facilities Manager  
Mike O'Donnell, School Resource Officer  
Jenny Stoica, HMS Secretary  
Larry Vassar, School Board Member  
Pamela Wilson, HHS Health/Quest Education

## CHAMBER AWARD FINALISTS

### CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER

Fred Leep, Pleasant View Dairy  
Terry Trusgnich, Aide Rentals & Sales  
Terry Krooswyk, Krooswyk Trucking & Excavating  
Pat Vassar, Highland Police Department

### BUSINESS PERSON

Scott Filler, Apex Construction & Remodeling  
Yolanda Hicks, Noble Home Health Care  
Terry Krooswyk, Krooswyk Trucking & Excavating  
Mike Wondaal, Culvers in Highland

### CHAMBER VOLUNTEER

Liz Fledderjohann, New Life CRC; Bill Leep, Pleasant View Dairy; Doug Lewis, Edward Jones; Vickie Rust, First Midwest Bank

### BEAUTIFICATION

Apex Construction & Remodeling, Cakes by Karen, Christenson Chevrolet, Circle Buick GMC, Culvers in Highland, Highland Volkswagen, Jane Berland School of Dance, Matthew Hunniford & Company, Strack & Van Til corporate headquarters

## TIME TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN

The public elementary schools will hold kindergarten registration the week of March 10. Parents are urged to bring their children and the items listed below to the school that serves their immediate district according to the following schedule:

**8:45 TO 11 AM:**  
Last names “A” through “J”

**12:15 TO 2:30 PM:**  
Last names “K” through “Z”

**MONDAY, MARCH 10**  
Warren Elementary School  
2901 100th St. • (219) 922-5660

**TUESDAY, MARCH 11**  
Johnston Elementary School  
8220 Fifth St. • (219) 923-2428

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**  
Southridge Elementary School  
9221 Johnston St. • (219) 922-5650

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13**  
Merkley Elementary School  
9340 Fifth St. • (219) 922-5640

**AGE REQUIREMENT:** Students must be 5 years of age on or before Aug. 1, 2014

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION:

- Five proofs of residency

Two of the following: NIPSCO, water, phone, cable (utility bills/deposit receipts)

Two of the following: Driver's license/state ID showing current address, vehicle registration, recent paycheck/unemployment check receipt.

One of the following: Lease and rent receipt, mortgage and homeowners insurance documents, notarized letter with three proofs of residency from the homeowner (parent/guardian must provide ID listed above)

- Proof of custody, if applicable
- Birth certificate
- Social security number
- Current immunization records (name and phone number of pediatrician)

## LITTLE LIGHTS PRESCHOOL

Little Lights Preschool is hosting an early registration day for its fall session, which begins Aug. 18.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to noon **MARCH 18**

**WHERE:** Suburban Bible Church, 3010 41st St.

**FEES:** \$425 for early registration on or before March 18, \$450 after March 18.

**INFO:** Visit [www.suburbanbible.org](http://www.suburbanbible.org) or [www.facebook.com/littlelights](https://www.facebook.com/littlelights) for info and downloadable registration forms.

## EVP JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL CAMP

This four-day camp, taught and directed by the volleyball professionals, will concentrate on the fundamentals of passing, setting and spiking.

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. to noon, **MARCH 24-27**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$74 residents, \$79 nonresidents

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

## HI-LO AEROBICS

This unique cardiovascular energy building dance-style aerobics works on body shaping, flexibility, muscle toning and various exercises.

**WHEN:** 6:15 to 6:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays,

**MARCH 13 - APRIL 15**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$35 resident / \$39 nonresident

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

## MEN'S OPEN BASKETBALL

Register now for this 18 and over league, which plays a regular season and an end-of-season tournament. Teams are guaranteed at least 10 games and must provide shirts or jerseys that are the same color with numbers on the back. Provide jersey color when registering to avoid duplicates

**WHEN:** 6 p.m. Thursdays, **MARCH 20 - MAY 22**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$480 per team

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

## COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Celebrate spring at the Highland Community Band's spring performance. Admission is free.

**WHEN:** 7 p.m. **APRIL 3**

**WHERE:** Highland High Monbeck Auditorium

**WANT TO JOIN?** Email sstrains@nirpc.org.

## HIGHLAND BAND CRAFT FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at this annual band craft fair. The two-day event features jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts and more.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **APRIL 5** and

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, **APRIL 6**

**WHERE:** Highland Middle School

**INFO:** Call Frank Postulka (219) 924-9203.

## CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR

It's time for the spring craft show and vendor fair, featuring candles, jewelry, handbags, home décor, skin care, gourmet dips and more.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **APRIL 12**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

# BASKETS & BUNNIES

## North Township Easter egg hunt

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Park for the 8th annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt.

Children ages 1 to 12 are invited to hunt for eggs until all are found.

DJ music, a moon walk bouncy house and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be part of the day's activities.

**WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. Saturday, **APRIL 12**

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Pavilion

**INFO:** Call (219) 932-2530, ext. 331.

## Highland breakfast with the bunny

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the event also features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny.

**WHEN:** Saturday, **APRIL 12**

**SEATINGS:** 9 and 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Highland High School cafeteria

**TICKETS:** \$6 and must be purchased in advanced at Lincoln Center or the Highland Chamber office.

**INFO:** Call the Highland Chamber of Commerce at (219) 923-3666.



## COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for rare items, such as comic books, sports cards, Hot wheels, autographs and other memorabilia? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote the card show in conjunction with the Community Garage Sale, featuring household items, toys, books, and more!

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **MARCH 15**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**ADMISSION:** Free

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

## BEGINNER MUSIC LESSONS

Whether you want to play the guitar or tickle the ivories, these beginner courses will teach you to read music, play songs and basic chording.

**GUITAR:** Wednesdays, **APRIL 2 - MAY 21**

Music is provided, but you must bring your own acoustic or electric guitar. Amps are not allowed.

**PIANO:** Thursdays, **APRIL 3 - MAY 22**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$100 resident / \$105 nonresident

**INFO:** www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.